

# HOW TO EXCEL IN YOUR MASTER THESIS !

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 AGENDA

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Motivation

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Background

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Types of thesis

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Identifying a thesis topic

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Approaching professor

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Work on thesis

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Writing

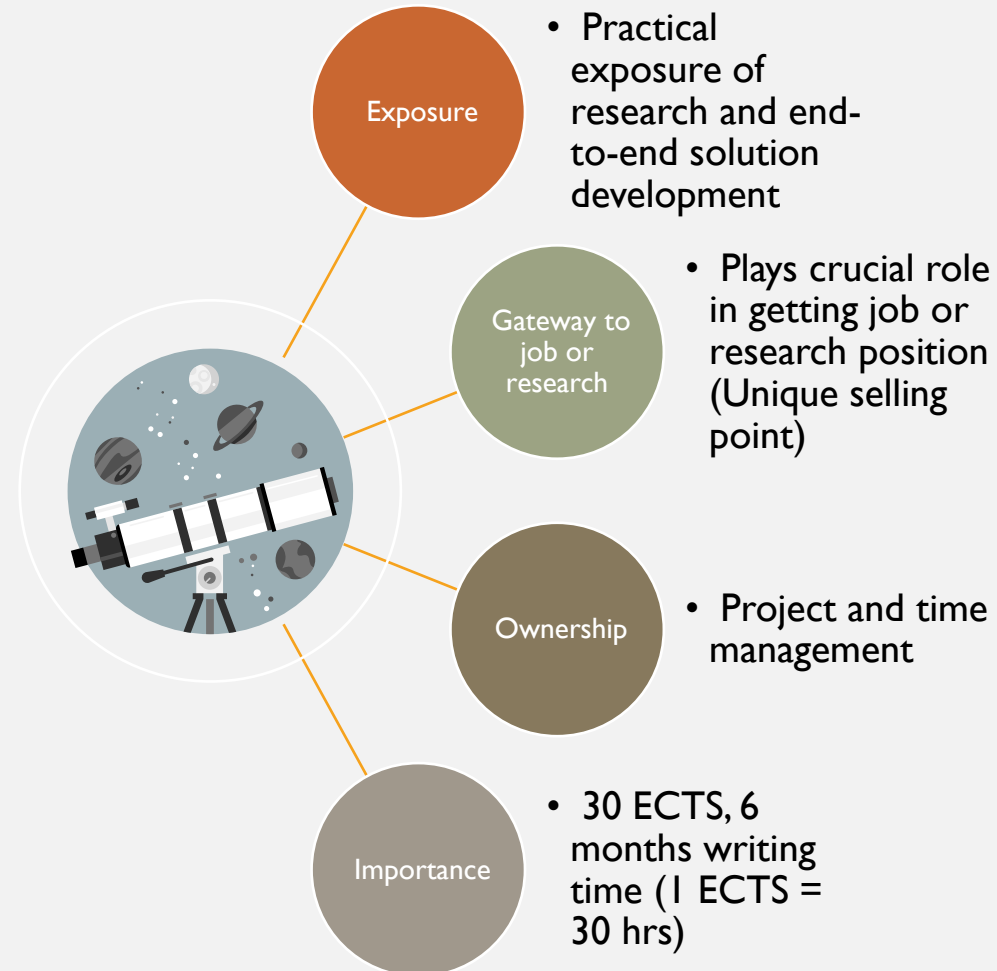
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Defence

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Questions

# MOTIVATION



## Roles and responsibility

### Author

- Perform experiment/code
- Write thesis
- Communicate problems
- Share progress reports

### First supervisor

- Defines scope and feasibility
- Feedback, evaluation

### Second supervisor

- Feedback on progress
- Closely works with author

# TYPES OF MASTER THESIS

## Qualitative

- Literature review or survey-oriented

## Quantitative

- Experiment-oriented
- Should be well-documented and reproducible

## In Industry

- Usually experiment-oriented
- Can be paid/unpaid
- Keep at least 3-5 months' time for coordinating and taking shared decision

## In University

- In any case, you need a professor at University
- Publication is easier
- 1-2 months' time to understand topic well
- Register immediately: sometimes human are deadline-driven.

# IDENTIFYING MASTER THESIS TOPIC

FIND WHAT INTERESTS YOU

RESEARCH WHAT HAS BEEN DONE ALREADY

BRAINSTORM

FEASIBILITY TEST

FIND SUPERVISOR

- Look for open master thesis topic in industry or university.
- Ask professor if he has something to offer.
- Discuss with colleague (thesis should not be an activity in isolation).
- Gain sufficient practical experience before registering master thesis.
- Create a pilot or demo project before promising big things.
- Check if your seminar or research topic can be extended to a thesis.

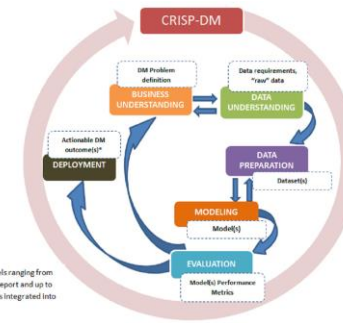
# APPROACHING PROFESSOR

- Be adaptive, flexible, and take feedback on your idea.
- Write a proposal of your idea beforehand.
- Look for state of art in your idea.
- What one single problem are you trying to solve?
- What contribution do you intend to make based on your hypothesis?

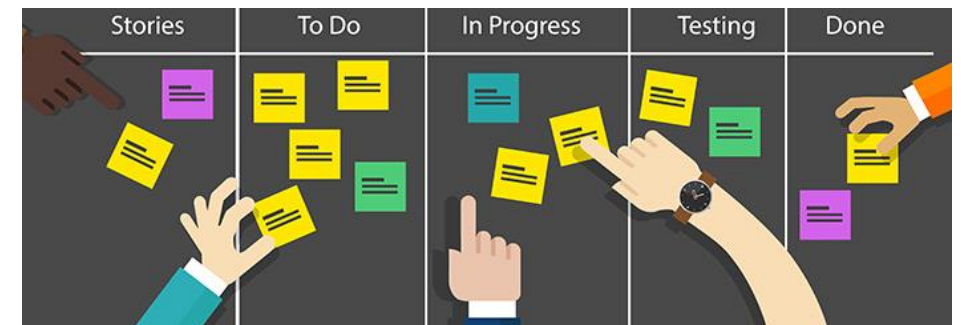


# WORKING ON MASTER THESIS

- Thesis is about consuming and producing quality scientific contributions
- Approach a problem systematically.
- Evaluation should be roughly 2/3 part.
- Use tools such as Zotero, Mendeley
- Try to automate what is redundant.
- Take logs of experiment.
- Share your progress, embrace feedbacks.
- Ask for help.
- No strict rules for length
- Organize/use tags to arrange various things
- Freeze things 1-2 weeks before submission



\* various complexity levels ranging from one-time or repeatable report and up to complex DM components integrated into enterprise IT systems





# WRITING MASTER THESIS



Start writing at the early stage



Utilize what you learnt from logs.



Have at least 2 reviews from friends and then 2 reviews from supervisor.  
**Must take your supervisor review.**



Must revise until you are confident.



Automate redundant process.

# DEFENSE PRESENTATION

- Present your results and defend your work
- Presentation should convey complete picture of your master thesis including methodology, contribution, future work, and conclusion.
- Timeline is after 6 months of thesis writing time
- Check if this date falls in the next semester to identify if you should enroll for next semester
- Answer questions and propose future work possibilities

QUESTIONS?

